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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,502	01/11/2005	Tomoaki Ito	00682P00720US	1986

7590 11/20/2006

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, LOUIS K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3721

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,502

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

Louis K. Huynh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.
2. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.
3. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.
 - Group I, claim(s) 1-11 and 19, drawn to a wrapping device having front face heater.
 - Group II, claim(s) 12-19, drawn to a wrapping device having projections for folding material protruded from the front and rear faces.
 - Group III, claim(s) 20, drawn to a method for wrapping and sealing an object.
 - Group IV, claim(s) 21, drawn to a method for wrapping an object having the step of folding back the material to cover the top face of the object.
 - Group V, claim(s) 22, drawn to a method for wrapping an object having the steps of interfolding the edges, the top and bottom.
4. The inventions listed as Groups I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:
 - Group I does not need the special technical feature of the first and/or second projections as required in group II (claim 12). Furthermore, group II does not need the special technical feature of the front bottom step as required in group I (claim 1).

- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the step of fusing the material as interfolded at the right and left side face as required in group III (claim 20) because the wrapping device of group I does not have side face heaters. Group III does not need the special technical feature of the movable folder as required in group I (claim 1) because the method of group III does not require a folding step using the movable folder.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the step of folding the material under the bottom face of the object by the rear bottom step as required in group IV (claim 21) because the wrapping device of group I does not have the bottom rear step.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the step of interfolding the edges in the longitudinal direction as required in group V (claim 22) because the wrapping device of group I does not have the first movable projections. Group V does not need the special technical feature of the movable folder as required in group I (claim 1) because the method of group V does not require a folding step using a movable folder.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the step of fusing the material by the front face heater as required in group III (claim 20) because the wrapping device of group I does not have a front face heater. Group III does not need the special technical feature of the movable projections as required in group II (claim 12) because the method of group III does not require a step of interfolding protruded material.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the step of bonding the first end and the second end of the material as required in group IV (claim 21) because the wrapping device of group II does not have a front side heater. Group IV does not need

the special technical feature of the movable projections as required in group II (claim 12) because method of group IV does not require a step of interfolding protruded material.

- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the step of bonding the longitudinal ends of the material as required in group V (claim 22) because the wrapping device of group II does not have a front face heater.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the step of folding the material as required in group IV (claim 21). Furthermore, group IV does not need the special technical feature of the step of fusing the material as interfolded at the right and left side faces as required in group III (claim 20).
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the step of interfolding the edges in the longitudinal direction of the left and right side faces of the material as required in group V (claim 22). Furthermore, group V does not need the special technical feature of the step of fusing the material by the front face heater with the front end face sealed with the front bottom step and the front top step as required in group III (claim 20).
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the step of interfolding the edges in the longitudinal direction of the left and right side faces of the material as required in group V (claim 22). Furthermore, group V does not need the special technical feature of the steps of folding the material using the front bottom step and front top step as required in group IV (claim 21).

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5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

6. The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

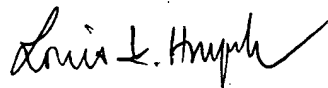
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.

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10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Louis K. Huynh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

November 14, 2006